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Agriculture

# NEWS BULLETIN AND PRICE LIST

## SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, JANUARY, 1947

### Swarthmore, Pa.

THESE PRICES GOOD UNTIL MAY 1st, 1947

#### BUY BLIGHT RESISTANT CHINESE CHESTNUT TREES

**1** The Chinese Chestnut has passed the experimental stage. It is time to plant. I don't mean to say that we shall not know more about them fifty years from now, but I have completed 20 years of experimentation with them and I can give some conclusions which warrant you in planting them in chestnut climate in any well drained soil that is not highly alkaline.

Do you want to buy a chestnut tree no taller than you are which has already produced nuts? We have some trees with that record.

Here are unsolicited letters:

From: Washington, D. C.

September 18, 1946.

"In the fall of 1945 I purchased twelve Chinese chestnut trees from your nursery \* \* \*. To my utter amazement, these trees now bear little chestnuts. Needless to say, I am delighted. Many thanks for the excellent stock that you sent me."

From: McKeesport, Pa.

"Three walnut trees I got from you two years ago produced this year."

From: Canadaigua, N. Y.

"I have three Chinese Chestnuts that I purchased from you a few years ago, and they have been satisfactory and are bearing nicely."

From: Catawissa, Pa.

"In 1939 I planted a Connecticut Yankee and a Zimmerman, and they are doing fine. Have borne nuts every year since. Scarce last year due to early warm spell in March and then a late frost."

From: Fitchburg, Mass.

"In view of the fact that the chestnut trees bought from you some years ago were put in the ground and went through a hurricane, two or three floods, and were not given the care I feel they should have received, but at the same time did bear chestnuts last fall, I am going to put out quite a few trees this spring."

The above were unusually precocious trees, but you may expect our Chestnut trees to bear sooner than apples if given as good care as the apple requires.

#### NUTS IN 1950 OR SOONER

The chances are about 20 to one in your favor that you will get chestnuts in 1950 if you plant in 1947 as follows: Plant one or more of each of two varieties of our grafted varieties near to each other (about 30 or 35 feet). Keep grass and weeds away from the trees until September first for 2 seasons. Fertilize as our booklet directs and you are in for a 2 party or 3 party race depending on whether it is you and boys, or you, boys and squirrels.

#### THE THRILL OF GATHERING NUTS

It thrills me to walk through the nursery in September and October and see the glossy brown nuts peeping out of opening burrs and nice nuts in the grass.

My satisfaction at this has no relation to such earthly matters as eating. That comes later. Nut trees are **fun**, as well as food supply. They give you a sense of achievement when you see them produce their nuggets of nutrition.

**CHINESE CHESTNUTS TO THE FORE.** Each year that I experiment with Chinese Chestnuts my opinion of them rises. Chestnuts are certainly the most productive of all nut trees. They are also the most precocious. Each of the other nut trees has its especial merits but in these two the chestnuts lead. The parent trees from which we propagate are the carefully selected best out of many thousands of seedling trees. What about the quality of the nuts? Well, the very conservative Mr. C. A. Reed, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, has said this:

"The best of the Chinese chestnuts are without peers among known chestnuts from any part of the world."

I have been pleased to learn that Chinese chestnut trees from Sunny Ridge have done well at Plattsburg, New York. This is on Lake Champlain, close to the Canadian boundry, lattitude 44 $\frac{3}{4}$  degrees North but we cannot be sure that they will do that in all places of that latitude.

In the spring of 1939 we transplanted some chestnut trees. They were three and four feet high. In 1943 they were 6, 7, and 8 feet high with spreading tops. Nearly all bore well in 1942 and again in 1943. Their record is one that you may duplicate if you give the trees a chance.

Another lot of tall, straight, slender Zimmerman were transplanted with bare roots in 1940. They were 8-10 feet tall and many of them bore in 1942 and in 1943 and then were sold.

We are offering four varieties of Chinese chestnuts. We have not yet had time to find out if one is better than another. Zimmerman is the most erect tree. Please let us select the varieties for you.

### **CHINESE CHESTNUT TREES THAT HAVE RIPENED NUTS**

If you are in a hurry for nuts you can get chestnut trees that already have ripened some nuts. A number of chestnut trees, 3-4 feet and larger, have matured nuts. These trees have been carefully marked. If you want some of these proved trees add \$1.00 to the list price. All are grafted trees.

### **HARDY SEEDLINGS**

The fact that a tree is grafted sometimes causes a delay in passage of sap to roots for winter storage. This excess moisture supply above the graft of a tree may, in extreme locations, cause an early autumn freeze to kill the tree above the graft. Therefore if you are on the northern edge of chestnut country I suggest that you begin with our seedlings. We have a few seedlings of unusual ancestry.

### **THE WAR IS OVER BUT —**

War has increased the cost of our materials and supplies, made some unavailable and has cut off our source of seed for some important varieties.

War nearly trebled the rate of day's wages for workmen in the last four years, and worse than that, it has at the same time reduced the available supply and also the quality of service and 1946 has brought no relief. In short the war has almost put us out of business.

THEREFORE OUR STOCKS ARE LOW and some of the trees are not as straight as I would like, but give them a few years and they will outgrow it.

### **RECONVERSION**

We cannot reconvert as quickly as your factory can. It takes from 5 to 8 years to get most of our trees ready for you. The little trees that did not get planted in 1942, and '43, and '44, and '45, and '46, because of the war, will cause us at least four more seasons of grief.

For these and other reasons we are in something that approaches a nut tree famine. Our stocks are low and in some lines we do not have any. Send in your orders as early as you can. You will get trees or your money back. Please give alternative order for anything but chestnuts, tree hazels, filberts, honey locust and blueberry.

### **CUTTING BACK**

Nut trees have prodigious roots — roots that are long and not fibrous. We have to cut away some of this long root before we send your trees. To plant a tree with only part of its roots and all of its top is to invite early death. I know for I have done it. Therefore we cut the tops back to establish balance and to help insure the success of transplanting. Therefore you need not expect the trees to be very handsome on arrival, but wait until growth begins and then admire and when the nuts begin you will rejoice.

### **WAXED TRUNKS**

We wax the trunk with a special and expensive wax, to reduce evaporation. The price of this unguent has jumped fabulously but we keep on using it. We think it increases the chance of survival and we want the trees you buy from us to grow. We can't keep on without your repeat orders and the orders from your friends.

### **POLLENATION**

So far as we know everything that we sell except mulberry has better chance of yielding if it has a partner of same species and different variety to pollenate



the blossoms — except that black walnut or any other walnut that blooms at same time will pollenate English walnuts.

**2 CHINESE PERSIMMONS.** One of the excitements of the year at Sunny Ridge Nursery has been Chinese persimmons. Thirty varieties bore fruit and some trees had all they could possibly hold. In growth habit they resemble pears. Grafted trees. Fruits 2½ to 3 inches in diameter. Owing to difficulty of grafting we have very few trees to offer this year. Each tree that we have means one tree that succeeded while ten failed to take when grafted. Last year we had 3 dozen trees. This year we have 5 dozen nicer ones. Anyone who plants these should follow our booklet and regard himself as experimenting.

**3 HONEY LOCUST.** Eventually the most important thing I ever did may be the introduction of the honey locust as a forage crop. The way these trees cluster themselves with long pods of beans is very suggestive of a great new forage crop and possibly also a commercial sugar crop. (see book Tree Crops by J. Russell Smith, out of print, try good library). The small beans are embedded in big fat sugary pods that hang in masses and ripen on test trees of both varieties that we offer. They have proved themselves in the Philadelphia climate. If you have a cow let her have a little fun. She likes candy as well as any girl. If you keep livestock in the pasture where these trees grow you will have to get up early in the morning if you expect to find any beans on the ground. They will have been eaten at dawn by the quadrupeds. Varieties: Calhoun and Millwood. No known difference between these two varieties as yet. The pods have been analyzed and found to contain 30% of sugar. That is the reason they are devoured so greedily. They drop their pods for several weeks to the enrichment of fall pastures and they begin to bear young **AND THE TREES ARE THORNLESS.**

We have some 8-10 foot trees that can be planted in pastures above the reach of cows and therefore without special protection.

Plant 35 to 50 feet apart in pastures. You will get just as much grass or more and lots of corn substitute besides. The open top of their feathery foliage lets light through to the grass. Tennessee experiment station reports that such light shading increased grass yield.

The tree has sprawling habits and the trees you buy may be crooked, but their intentions are honorable and the promise of harvests is excellent.

**4 HIGH BUSH BLUEBERRY.** The arrival of this new crop is the horticultural sensation of the decade. I have 3 varieties, Burlington, Jersey, Rancocas. They will give you a succession of berries for 6 weeks beginning in June in the climate of central New Jersey and later as one goes north. We suggest you leave the varieties to us.

**5 FILBERTS**—For a long while I turned up my nose at filberts but I had a few trees. At last the handsome way they grow won my attention. Picking up the nuts won my affection. Eating them confirmed it, and now I'm an enthusiast starting a test orchard and selling the proved standard varieties. Try some. They are intimate yard trees and very good screens.

Barcelona is the heavy bearer and Du Chilly and several others are pollenators. You must have both. Please order Barcelona and pollenator. One pollenator to half a dozen Barcelonas is all right. Plant six feet apart for a screen, fifteen to twenty feet apart in the open.

**6 HAZEL NUT.** Sold out. See us next fall.

#### **NEW SHAGBARKS. THINNER SHELLS, BIG KERNELS, COMPLETE HALVES**

**7** Perhaps you remember the long scales of bark on a tree that some called shellbark and others called shagbark (*Carya ovata* to be exact). You picked up the nuts with delight.

They were pretty, the flavor delicious, and you had difficulty in getting the kernels. Well, that's over. Enthusiastic members of the Northern Nut Growers Association have searched the woods from Canada to Carolina these last 30 years and found the master trees. I am testing about 50 varieties. The shagbarks we sell will give you most of their kernels in halves. These are genius trees.

If you fertilize the trees you will be surprised at the speed with which the shagbarks grow. I've seen them make 3 feet in a stason. We have several varie-





ties but only a few trees of each: suggest let us select unless you are a specialist. Almost sold out for this spring.

A sure thing for the north. Don't miss this beautiful tree, unquestionably hardy and with nuts of unrivalled flavor. The parent trees are scattered all the way from the Great Smoky Mountains to Ontario and Wisconsin. Unless you know a lot about hickories the way to order is to give us your **latitude** and **altitude** and let us select the varieties. One of the dangers in moving trees is to get them too far north or south of the home of the parent tree. 30 to 40 feet apart.

**8 HYBRID HICKORIES.** The Fairbanks hybrid is one of the fastest growing and surest bearers of all the hickory family. Stratford is also early and heavy bearer. Shagbark should pollenate both.

**9 PECANS** hardy, beautiful. Every farm home should have some. Almost sold out for the spring.

**10 HICAN.** Fast growers, varieties, Gerardi, Bixby. Almost sold out for this spring.

**11 BLACK WALNUT.** These are the nuts that keep their flavor in cooking. The black walnut is a majestic and useful tree.

Seedlings of the Thomas variety are unusually vigorous. I have some that were pollinated by Ohio and other good varieties. These are the best seedlings in America. 2-3 ft. trees one dollar each.

**12 ENGLISH WALNUT.** We have a small stock of two old standards, Franquette, and Wilz Mayette, and just a few of the new Broadview from Poland, the hardiest good English walnut we have.

**13 TURKISH TREE HAZEL (*Corylus colurna*).** This is a remarkably beautiful tree. It develops sharp conical shape with unusually perfect symmetry. The bark is of corky texture. Early to leaf out in spring and carries its leaf late in the autumn. Nuts are in a large burr, sometimes as many as 10 to the burr. It is a rapid grower, 80 ft. in height. Hardy in Iowa and New England.

**14 AMERICAN PERSIMMONS.** These are delicious fruits but our stock is virtually nil for this season.

#### OUR TREES ARE FOR THE NORTH

The rubber industry of the Far East is derived from the seed of Brazilian rubber trees grown in the greenhouses of Kew Gardens, London. The Kew trees were raised from seed carried from Brazil by an Englishman.

Similarly we grow northern trees in the northernmost corner of Virginia on the slope of the Blue Ridge Mountain not far from Harpers Ferry which is farther north than southern New Jersey and with a much more severe climate. Therefore we expect them to live in Massachusetts and Michigan. Here is the way we do it.

We use walnut seed from Minnesota. On seedlings of this tough origin we graft the Tasterite walnut which grows on the cold plateau near Ithaca, New York. This is our farthest North Walnut.

The cions of shagbark trees from Minnesota, from Michigan, and from Ontario, are grafted on young seedling trees grown from Quebec nuts. Persimmon seed from Northern Missouri and Kansas are grafted with cions of persimmons that have done well in Iowa. Our Chinese persimmon varieties were imported personally from the extreme northern range of Chinese persimmons.

I have seen snow two feet deep at Sunny Ridge Nursery, and I have experienced temperatures of 30° below zero in that neighborhood.

The climates of Peking, China, and Omaha, Nebraska, are almost identical as to average temperatures for July and average temperatures for January.

Our Chinese persimmons and our chestnuts came from the vicinity of Peking, some of the persimmons from further west.

This should not, however, be taken as a statement that our persimmons will thrive in Omaha, Nebraska. I do not know. There may be quirks in the climate, such as spring thaws or warm November days followed by freezes that make a difference. It should be clearly understood that the Chinese persimmons,



when we have them are grown in climate almost like that of Philadelphia, and they are thriving in South Eastern Pennsylvania, and that any planter is experimenting. They bear early.

The chestnuts are doing well in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Here and there somebody gets them in a frost pocket and they die, while a man on higher ground 50 miles farther north has them thriving.

### EARLY PLANTING & FALL PLANTING

Early planting is desirable and be sure that there are no air pockets beneath the roots and that the earth about the tree is soaked with water so that it makes a mud contact with the roots. That lets absorption (which is life for trees) begin. FALL PLANTING is OK. south of line, New York - Pittsburg - Columbus, O.

**SPECIAL TREE LIST** describing small lots, special trees and oaks. We have a fine lot of oaks. If interested write for special list. It will be out in March.

### NORTHERN NUT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

This is a varied collection of interesting people, no two alike, (doctors, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, professors, farmers, spinsters) who have nut trees for avocation—annual meeting an unusual summer vacation event.

You probably will want to join. M. K. Jones, Secretary; Jones Nursery, Lancaster, Pa.

### A LIVING MONUMENT

**The boy returns. Father marks the year—plants a row of nut trees.**

What better monument to the beloved departed than a nut tree or a grove of them. They get greener and grander for generations. Also a good way for the returned veteran to celebrate his return.

### AN EASTER GIFT OR A CHRISTMAS GIFT

Nut trees are effective gifts. Just think how much longer they last than does a box of candy or almost any other gift that you can name.

You order the trees from us and we will notify your friends at proper time as requested.

## Reading Guides For The Owner Of Nut Trees

1. **THE PLANTING, FERTILIZATION, & CARE OF NUT TREES AND PERSIMMONS** by J. Russell Smith, ScD, postpaid 25¢.

Don't buy good trees and then kill them by misguided care. This booklet will save you many times its cost and increase the results for all but the most skillful tree planters.

2. **HOW TO GRAFT NUT TREES.** Postpaid 25¢.

The real fun is to graft your own nut trees. It is not especially difficult but it does require special technique. This illustrated booklet tells just how to do it.

3. **PLANTING AND CARE OF HIGH BUSH BLUEBERRIES,** 15¢ gratis with blueberry orders.

## Reading for Patriots who wish to know their United States

**NORTH AMERICA, THE CONTINENT AND ITS RESOURCES AS THE HOME OF MAN,** by J. Russell Smith and M. Odgen Phillips, 1021 pages, \$4.75 postpaid, a study of the continent by producing regions such as Corn Belt, Cotton Belt, Southern California, the West Indies, the Plateau of Mexico, etc.

Used as an economic guide book by Educated Europeans. Put one in your automobile. It is a standard book without a rival in its field. It is **readable**. It will greatly enhance your pleasure and your understanding of the land as you make an automobile journey. I admit freely that it is the best book on subject.

Keep this book five days and if you do not like it send it back in good order. Your money will be promptly refunded.

**Address And Make Checks Payable To**

**SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, SWARTHMORE, PA.**

Do not telephone Swarthmore about trees. Do not call there about trees. It is a strictly mail order office. The trees are far away on the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. Your letters will receive prompt attention, so will your orders, but remember that a big rain may wet our clay soil and hold us up for 3 or 4 more days after the rain at any time.



# PRICE LIST FOR NUT TREES

## SUNNY RIDGE NURSERY, SWARTHMORE, PA.

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The Nursery is on the Blue Ridge Mountain in Northern Virginia but the sales office is at Swarthmore, Pa.

This price list cancels all previous lists and will be cancelled May 1st, 1947.

All trees are grafted unless otherwise specified. Will be shipped by express, bare root and properly cut back unless some other arrangement is agreed upon.

Prices F. O. B. Railway Express office, Purcellville, Va. **Please be sure to give correct shipping address.** We do hate to send a tree to the wrong place. It is surprising how many people give a shipping address that is incorrect.

Terms: Cash with order.

For parcel post shipments add 10% to order. We strongly recommend express.

Our stock is so limited in quantity that we cannot make any concession in price for large orders, except that we have a bargain in Japanese walnuts, and in honey locusts that can be planted out in pasture fields with animals and without special protection.

We cannot send trees with ball of earth, except Cilician fir trees. This tree (abies cilicica is hardy in S. New England and New York. Rare and unusually beautiful. **NOT SOLD OUTSIDE OF JAPANESE BEETLE BELT.**

	each	3-9	10-29	29-99
<b>BLUEBERRIES—</b> All varieties, 12-18", 2 years old	\$1.80	\$1.50	\$1.30	\$1.10
Jersey only, 18-24", 3 years old	2.50	2.20	1.80	1.50
Try our Bakers dozen—				
four plants 12-18" of each kind	} Special price \$18.00 (Catalog price \$20.50)			
one Jersey 18-24"				
Bakers double dozen—				
eight plants 12-18" of each kind &	} Special price \$32.00 (Catalog price \$36.20)			
two Jerseys 18-24"				

Be sure to try some of the large size Jerseys to get acquainted as soon as possible with the big berries shown life size on special blueberry circular.

NUT TREES & PERSIMMONS	1-2 ft. Ea.	2-3 ft. Ea.	3-4 ft. Ea.	4-5 ft. Ea.	5-6 ft. Ea.	6-7 ft. Ea.	7-8 ft. Ea.	8-10 ft. Ea.	10-12 ft. Ea.
<b>Chinese Chestnut (Grafted)</b>									
Zimmerman, Carr, Hobson, Connecticut Yankee .....		\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.40	\$4.75				
Seedlings .....		2.00	2.50	3.00					
<b>Japanese Chestnut—Austin</b> .....					4.00				
<b>Northern Pecan—Busseron, Indi- ana, Greenriver</b> .....		5.00	5.50	6.00					
<b>Hiccan—Girardi</b> .....			5.50	6.00	6.50				
<b>Pure Shagbark</b> .....		4.25	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50		
<b>Hybrid Hickory—Stratford, Fairbanks</b> .....		4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75				
<b>English Walnut</b>									
Wilz Mayette, Franquette ....		3.50	4.00						
Broadview .....		4.00	4.50	5.00					
<b>Black Walnut—Thomas, Ohio, Tasterite, Stambaugh</b> .....		2.50	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.50			
Thomas Seedlings .....			1.00						
<b>Filberts—Barcelona &amp; pollenator.</b>			2.25	2.50	2.75				
<b>Turkish Tree Hazel (seedling)</b> ....		2.00	2.40	2.75	3.00				
<b>Honey Locust† Thornless</b>									
Calhoun and Milwood .....			1.00	1.25	1.40	1.50	1.65	2.25	2.50
<b>† Honey Locust Seedlings</b>									
(Transplanted) .....			.50	.75					
<b>Mulberry—Everbearing</b> .....			1.25	1.40	1.50				
<b>Pawpaw Seedlings</b> .....	1.00	1.25							
<b>Cilician Fir with ball of earth</b> ....			4.00	5.00	6.00				
<b>Grafted Chinese Persimmons</b> .....		10.00	11.00	12.00					
<b>Kingnut or Big Shellbark</b>									
Variety HAGE .....		4.00							
<b>Japanese Walnut Cordiformis</b>									
Seedlings only .....			.75	.90	1.00				

† Special price on honey locust in quantity.

